

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 21-90 are pending in the application, with 21, 35, 49, 63, and 77 being the independent claims. Claims 21, 35, 49, 63, and 77 are amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

In paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 77-90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and request that it be withdrawn.

The Office Action states that the "claimed devices comprise only logic and are directed to an arrangement of software, per se, Claims 77-90 are therefore rejected as not being tangible." On page 6, the Office Action further states that "applicant's specification does not disclose the claimed logic is hardware logic, but instead defines logic as 'computer software' at [0044] and 'computer programs' at [0048]. In view of applicant's specification, the claimed device therefore comprises only software components and therefore rejected as being intangible."

However, Applicants note that just five paragraphs (paragraph [0053]) from the paragraphs cited by the Office Action, Applicants' specification specifically discloses that hardware implementations can be used. Paragraph [0053] states:

The components of the invention (shown in FIG. 1) are described in greater detail below. It should be understood that any specific software, hardware, or operating system implementations described herein are provided for purposes of illustration, and not limitation. The invention can work with software, hardware, and operating system implementations other than those described herein. *Any software, hardware, and operating system implementations suitable for performing the functions described herein can be used.*

As stated in Paragraph [0053], any software, hardware, and operating system implementation suitable for performing the functions described in Applicants' specification can be used. Thus, Applicants' specification specifically supports hardware implementations, and Applicants therefore assert that "logic" as recited in claims 77-90, is not limited to software, but also covers hardware.

Hence, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants assert that claims 77-90 are directed toward statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 77-90 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 4, on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 21-90 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,721,910 to Unger *et al.* (herein referred to as "Unger"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

For the Examiner's convenience, independent claim 21, as amended, is reproduced below:

21. A method of enabling a user to organize and analyze information, comprising:
searching an input first group of documents to output a second group of documents;
analyzing an input third group of documents according to one or more analytical functions to output a fourth group of documents; and
selectively iterating at least one of the searching and at least one of the analyzing, wherein each iteration of the searching or the analyzing is performed using as the input one of the second group, the fourth group, or the output of a previous iteration;
wherein said selectively iterating includes:
performing an additional iteration of the searching using the fourth group as input, to output a fifth group of documents.

Unger does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent claim 21. For example, Unger fails to teach or suggest the selectively iterating including performing an additional iteration of the searching using the fourth group as input group, to output a fifth group of documents.

Unger does not teach or suggest an output of an analyzing stage (e.g., the fourth group) being applied as an input to the searching stage. For example, the output of stage 5 of Unger is not taught as being capable of being applied as an input of stage 2 of Unger. Unlike Unger, Applicant's claimed invention includes selectively iterating searching and analyzing, including performing an additional iteration of the searching using the fourth group as input group, to output a fifth group of documents. Nowhere does Unger teach or suggest such selective iteration.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 21 is patentable over Unger. Furthermore, independent claims 35, 49, 63 and 77 are patentable over Unger for at least these reasons, in addition to the elements, limitations, and/or features recited

respectively therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21, 35, 49, 63, and 77 and allowance thereof.

Each of claims 22-34, 36-48, 50-62, 64-76 and 78-90 depends from one of the independent claims 21, 35, 49, 63, and 77 and is patentable over Unger for at least the reasons stated above with regard to their respective independent claim, in addition to the elements, limitations, and/or features recited respectively therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22-34, 36-48, 50-62, 64-76 and 78-90, and the allowance thereof.

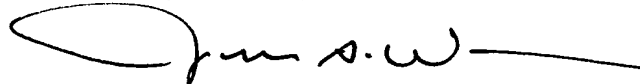
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. S. W.", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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